

Tidy Towns Competition 2006

Adjudication Report

Centre: **Castletownroche** Ref: **493**
County: **Cork (North)** Mark: **271**
Category: **B** Date(s): **22/07/2006**

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2006
Overall Development Approach	50	44
The Built Environment	50	35
Landscaping	50	37
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	24
Litter Control	50	35
Waste Minimisation	20	8
Tidiness	30	17
Residential Areas	40	27
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	35
General Impression	10	9
TOTAL MARK	400	271

Overall Development Approach:

Castletownroche Tidy Towns Committee is a hard working and far reaching one with regular meetings and a fifteen strong committee. Congratulations on your work with Foroige this year – it must a great help in your efforts! You would appear to get good financial and practical support from the local community and the various local statutory bodies such as Ballyhoura Development Limited and Cork County Council. Your new three year plan made interesting reading. The history information panel planned for the riverside area next year is looked forward to with eager anticipation. Congratulations on your continued participation over the last 25 years in the competition! You appear to have maintained much of what is good about the village and supplemented it.

The Built Environment:

The main streets of the village looked extremely well. Hogan's was admired as was Nash's original garage building. The Catholic Church at the top of the hill looked well and its boundary wall looked quite fresh. The Church of Ireland looked quite magnificent in its beautifully well maintained grounds. The National School looked well although its grounds were a little neglected – possibly due to the fact that it was Summertime. The restored mill is a magnificent asset to have so close to the village centre. The garage at the bottom of the hill displayed magnificent rose beds. The butchers was quite fresh as was The Spinning Wheel with its tractor display, The Rockforest Bar, The Castle Arms and the Garda Station. The Post Office looked fine but Granuaile's Take Away would need to paint above their sign where the wall is a little patchy.

Landscaping:

The grotto looked fresh and abundant hanging baskets and window boxes were evident on Chapel Street in particular. The attractive seating area by the riverside and mill with its freshly painted steel bridge over the waterside looked quite magnificent. Incidental landscaped spaces throughout including the Church of Ireland planted bed, one along the street side with integrated seating and that at the junction of the Doneraile Road

with the freshly painted village pump were all greatly admired. The Hunters Park area looked extremely well with beautifully integrated landscaping. You mention that you have given your landscapes a co-ordinated approach in order to give the village the feel of being an integrated unit. This has been most successful. A display in gravel bed on the Mallow approach looked quite magnificent and milk churns to a building at the bottom of the hill were admired.

Wildlife and Natural Amenities:

A crane was seen at the riverside on adjudication day. You mention that numerous animals are visible and plan information boards for next year's competition and nesting boxes. Congratulations on putting in the bat boxes at the church grounds.

Litter Control:

The standard of litter control on the day was extremely good with little litter being in evidence apart from a minor outbreak at the grotto and at Hunters Park. We look forward to seeing the results of your art competition next year. The adjudicator noted that the County Council had indeed replaced the traditional litter bins with fixed wheeled bins.

Waste Minimisation:

The bring backs at the Community Centre appeared a little grubby in themselves although the area around them was quite clean and neat.

Tidiness:

The village generally looked quite neat and ordered on adjudication day and there was little fault to find under this heading. The work planned to the shortcut by the Foroige Youth Group is looked forward to for next year's competition.

Residential Areas:

The new colourful stepped street houses on the hill were greatly admired for their vernacular style and are much in keeping with the character of the village. Estates generally looked well such as Caislean an Easaig and Hunters Park. The latter sported some magnificent gardens and its open spaces looked marvellous. The creeper clad house by the bridge was greatly admired and retained its original sash windows. There were a couple of other properties with original sashes on the main street but one or two of them were in need of additional paintwork.

Roads, Streets and Back Areas:

These were generally good with the main approaches to the town being quite neat and beautifully maintained. Some of the signage in the centre was a little patchy such as the children crossing sign but mostly this was of a high standard. The adjudicator was particularly impressed by the fact that the traditional arrows on bends had been freshly painted!

General Impression:

Castletownroche was a pleasure to visit after many years absence. It struck the adjudicator when the village was first visited a number of years ago that it was one with much potential and its certainly lived up to that promise!